BRITISH COLUMBIA
ACHIEVEMENT FOUNDATION

Celebrating Excellence in British Columbia.

2018 Longlist

2018 Shortlist

Media Resources

2018 Jury Panel

News Release

Photos

British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction

BC Celebrates Canada's Best

Carol Off Wins the 2018 BC National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction

British Columbia Achievement Foundation Chair, Scott McIntyre, is pleased to announce that Carol Off has won the 2018 British Columbia National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction for *All We Leave Behind: A Reporter's Journey into the Lives of Others*.

Off was presented with the $40,000 prize at a ceremony that also celebrated finalists Ken Dryden for *Game Change: The Life and Death of Steve Montador and the Future of Hockey*; Doug Saunders for *Maximum Canada: Why 35 Million Canadians Are Not Enough*; and, Tanya Talaga for *Seven Fallen Feathers: Racism, Death, and Hard Truths in a Northern City*.

"Congratulations to Carol Off and all the 2018 finalists. Their work provides a compelling lens into issues and stories that have genuine impact on our everyday life," said McIntyre. "We are blessed with a remarkable pool of writing talent in Canada, demonstrated by this year's shortlisted authors."

Now in its 14th year, British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction is one of Canada's major national book prizes and the only one to originate in BC. The award is presented by the British Columbia Achievement Foundation, an independent foundation established by the Province in 2003 to celebrate excellence in the arts, humanities, enterprise, and community service.

The 2018 jury panel members were **Jan Walter**, Jury Chair, editor, publishing executive, bookseller and former Chair of the Kingston WritersFest Board; **Rick Antonson**, author, book publisher, lecturer and former CEO of Tourism Vancouver; and, **Eliza Reid**, co-founder of the Iceland Writers' Retreat, writer, editor and currently the First Lady of Iceland.

The jury cited:
All We Leave Behind is a timely memoir that offers both context to and a close-up of uncomfortable truths: the failures of the West's involvement in Afghanistan, the hurdles confronting refugees who seek safety in Canada, and the dilemma of a combat journalist expected to maintain professional distance from her sources.

Carol Off relied on Asad Aryubwal's willingness to reveal the crimes of warlords on whom NATO pinned its hopes for stability after the reign of the Taliban, but his on-camera testimony put him and his family at risk. After precarious years in exile, the Aryubwals hoped for refugee status in Canada; Off decided she had to help. Then began a harrowing

seven-year battle with corrupt or hostile bureaucracies, abroad and at home. With bracing insight and a skillfully crafted narrative, this work forces a rethinking of our attitudes to those who ask us for sanctuary.

2018 recipient Carol Off with Scott McIntyre, Chair of BC Achievement Foundation

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British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction

BC Celebrates Canada's Best

Longlist Announced for BC National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction, One of Canada's Largest Book Prizes

The jury for the 14th Annual BC National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction, one of Canada's leading literary non-fiction prizes, has selected its longlist for 2018.

Over 150 books by 45 publishers were nominated for the $40,000 prize from across the country. The prize jury has selected the following longlist of 10 books.

Title	Author	Publisher
Island of the Blue Foxes: Disaster and Triumph on Bering's Great Voyage to Alaska	Stephen R. Bown	Douglas & McIntyre
Vimy: The Battle and the Legend	Tim Cook	Penguin Canada: Allen Lane
Run, Hide, Repeat: A Memoir of a Fugitive Childhood	Pauline Dakin	Penguin Canada: Viking
Game Change: The Life and Death of Steve Montador and the Future of Hockey	Ken Dryden	McClelland & Stewart: Signal
Better Now: Six Big Ideas to Improve Health Care for All Canadians	Dr. Danielle Martin	Penguin Canada: Allen Lane
Life on the Ground Floor: Letters from the Edge of Emergency Medicine	James Maskalyk	Penguin Random House Canada: Doubleday Canada
All We Leave Behind: A Reporter's Journey into the Lives of Others	Carol Off	Penguin Random House Canada: Random House

		Canada
Maximum Canada: Why 35 Million Canadians Are Not Enough	Doug Saunders	Penguin Random House Canada: Alfred A. Knopf Canada
Seven Fallen Feathers: Racism, Death, and Hard Truths in a Northern City	Tanya Talaga	House of Anansi Press
The Patch: The People, Pipelines, and Politics of the Oil Sands	Chris Turner	Simon and Schuster Canada

The BC National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction will announce its shortlist on December 1, 2017 and the award will be presented in Vancouver in early 2018.

The jury for the 2018 Award comprises:
Jan Walter, Jury Chair, editor, publishing executive, bookseller and former Chair of the Kingston WritersFest Board.
Rick Antonson, author, book publisher, lecturer and former CEO of Tourism Vancouver.
Eliza Reid, co-founder of Iceland Writers' Retreat, writer, editor and currently the First Lady of Iceland.

"This year's longlist proves once again that Canadian writers of non-fiction, and their books, are alive and well," said BC Achievement Foundation Chair, Scott McIntyre. "To misquote Mark Twain: the rumours of the death of real books are greatly exaggerated. This is a sterling longlist: congratulations to all the writers, and thanks to our distinguished jury."

Previous winners of the BC National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction include:
- Sandra Martin for *A Good Death: Making the Most of Our Final Choices* (2017)
- Rosemary Sullivan for *Stalin's Daughter: The Extraordinary and Tumultuous Life of Svetlana Alliluyeva* (2016)
- Karyn L. Freedman for *One Hour in Paris: A True Story of Rape and Recovery* (2015)
- Thomas King for *The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America* (2014)
- Modris Eksteins for *Solar Dance: Genius, Forgery and the Crisis of Truth in the Modern Age* (2013)
- Charlotte Gill for *Eating Dirt: Deep Forests, Big Timber, and Life with The Tree-Planting Tribe* (2012)
- John Vaillant for *The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival* (2011)
- Ian Brown for *The Boy in the Moon: A Father's Search for His Disabled Son* (2010)
- Russell Wangersky for *Burning Down the House* (2009)
- Lorna Goodison for *From Harvey River: A Memory of My Mother and Her People* (2008)
- Noah Richler for *This Is My Country, What's Yours?* (2007)
- Rebecca Godfrey for *Under the Bridge* (2006)
- Patrick Lane for There Is a Season (2005)

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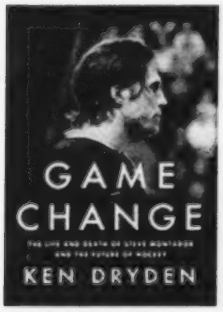
British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction

BC Celebrates Canada's Best

Finalists Announced for 14th Annual BC National Non-Fiction Award

Finalists for the 2018 BC National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction - one of the largest non-fiction book prizes in the country - were announced today on behalf of the BC Achievement Foundation. The award carries a prize of $40,000 and each finalist will also receive a prize of $5,000.



Game Change: The Life and Death of Steve Montador and the Future of Hockey

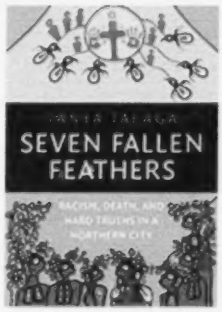
by Ken Dryden

All We Leave Behind: A Reporter's Journey into the Lives of Others

by Carol Off

Maximum Canada: Why 35 Million Canadians Are Not Enough

by Doug Saunders



Seven Fallen Feathers: Racism, Death, and Hard Truths in a Northern City

by Tanya Talaga

An independent jury chose the four finalists from among 156 books submitted by 45 publishers from across Canada. The members of the 2018 jury are **Jan Walter**, Jury Chair, editor, publishing executive, bookseller and former Chair of the Kingston WritersFest Board; **Rick Antonson**, author, book publisher, lecturer and former CEO of Tourism Vancouver; and, **Eliza Reid**, co-founder of Iceland Writers' Retreat, writer, editor and currently the First Lady of Iceland.

Now in its 14th year, the award has featured such winners as Sandra Martin, Rosemary Sullivan, Karyn L. Freedman, Thomas King, Modris Eksteins, Charlotte Gill, John Vaillant, Ian Brown, Russell Wangersky, Lorna Goodison, Noah Richler, Rebecca Godfrey, and Patrick Lane.

"Writers are the essential lifeblood of our culture, and while they may labour in isolation, their words help us understand who we are, and our place in the world. This year's shortlist of four exceptional books of non -fiction, selected from 156 submissions, exemplifies everything our Award stands for," said Scott McIntyre, Foundation Chair. "We are very proud of our jury's final selections. And we are equally proud that the province of British Columbia continues to offer a national award of this stature."

The jury will announce the winner of the 2018 prize at a special presentation ceremony in Vancouver on February 1, 2018.

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British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction

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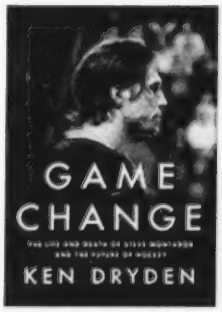
2018 Finalist

Game Change: The Life and Death of Steve Montador and the Future of Hockey

by Ken Dryden



Game Change is a compelling work of investigative journalism by an author uniquely qualified to demystify its subject. Ken Dryden's examination of the premature death in 2015 of NHL defenceman Steve Montador, a victim of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), masterfully blends leading edge medical research and the evolving culture of professional sport with an intimate and memorable portrait of a modern hockey player's life. Montador's career accelerated just as the game itself did, but at terrible cost. Dryden eloquently challenges the thinking that has so far tolerated brain injury in professional hockey; his well-argued solutions underpin a critically important message for the future of our national game.

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2018 Finalist

All We Leave Behind: A Reporter's Journey into the Lives of Others

by Carol Off

All We Leave Behind is a timely memoir that offers both context to and a close-up of uncomfortable truths: the failures of the West's involvement in Afghanistan, the hurdles confronting refugees who seek safety in Canada, and the dilemma of a combat journalist expected to maintain professional distance from her sources. Carol Off relied on Asad Aryubwal's willingness to reveal the crimes of warlords on whom NATO pinned its hopes for stability after the reign of the Taliban, but his on-camera testimony put him and his family at risk. After precarious years in exile, the Aryubwals hoped for refugee status in Canada; Off decided she had to help. Then began a harrowing seven-year battle with corrupt or hostile bureaucracies, abroad and at home. With bracing insight and a skillfully crafted narrative, this work forces a rethinking of our attitudes to those who ask us for sanctuary.

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British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction

BC Celebrates Canada's Best

2018 Finalist

Maximum Canada: Why 35 Million Canadians Are Not Enough

by Doug Saunders

Maximum Canada is an homage to our country, a summary of the good and bad from our past, and concrete suggestions on what will allow us as a nation to reach - or rather, maximize - our fullest potential. In a year when debates about the movement of peoples remain contentious throughout the world, Doug Saunders makes objective and powerful arguments for the need to increase Canada's population. Saunders recognizes the challenges associated with a massive push to triple our population, but his optimism never strays to the quixotic. Thoroughly researched and compelling to read, Maximum Canada invites us to imagine a larger, even more inclusive Canada.

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British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction

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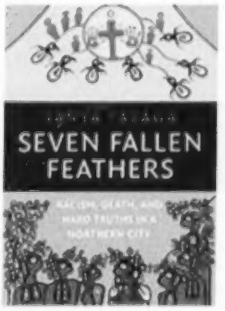
2018 Finalist

Seven Fallen Feathers: Racism, Death, and Hard Truths in a Northern City

by Tanya Talaga



Seven Fallen Feathers is achingly blunt in confronting recurring damage that must be repaired. The book puts a human face to the headline statistics, reveals the continuing harm of unequal educational opportunity, and delivers the evidence of systemic racism in Canada with an insistent voice. Tanya Talaga draws the reader into communities of hurt and flawed responses surrounding the deaths of seven Indigenous students, the "fallen feathers." Talaga yanks at the reader's complacency with her story of separated families, untethered youths, and the seemingly unbridgeable distance between cultures. She offers painful lessons while courting hope.

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British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction

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British Columbia Award for Canadian Non-Fiction: Media Resources

Media Kit *Book descriptions, review quotes, and author bios* (pdf, 1.5M)

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British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction

Media Background: 2017 BC Award Finalists

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British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction
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Quick Facts

Name: British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction (short form: the BC Award)

Value: $40,000

Age: This is the 13th year of the annually presented Award

Funding: The British Columbia Achievement Foundation

Shortlist Announced: December 1, 2016

Winner Announced: January 26th, 2017

2017 Jury: Hal Wake, Jan Walter, John Burns

2017 Shortlist:
Taras Grescoe for *Shanghai Grand: Forbidden Love and International Intrigue on the Eve of the Second World War*
Sandra Martin for *A Good Death: Making the Most of Our Final Choices*
Robert Moor for *On Trails: An Exploration*
Alexandra Shimo for *Invisible North: The Search for Answers on a Troubled Reserve*

Past Winners:
2016: Rosemary Sullivan for *Stalin's Daughter: The Extraordinary and Tumultuous Life of Svetlana Alliluyeva*
2015: Karyn L. Freedman for *One Hour in Paris: A True Story of Rape and Recovery*
2014: Thomas King for *The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America*
2013: Modris Eksteins for *Solar Dance: Genius, Forgery, and the Crisis of Truth in the Modern Age*
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2010: Ian Brown for *The Boy in the Moon: A Father's Search for His Disabled Son*
2009: Russell Wangersky for *Burning Down the House: Fighting Fires and Losing Myself*
2008: Lorna Goodison for *From Harvey River: A Memoir of My Mother and Her People*
2007: Noah Richler for *This Is My Country, What's Yours? A Literary Atlas of Canada*
2006: Rebecca Godfrey for *Under the Bridge: The True Story of the Murder of Reena Virk*
2005: Patrick Lane for *There Is a Season: A Memoir in a Garden*

British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction
BC Celebrates Canada's Best

About the Jury

Hal Wake, Jury Chair, Artistic Director of the Vancouver Writers Fest and a member of granting juries for Canada Council, BC Arts Council and the City of Vancouver.

Jan Walter, editor, publishing executive, bookseller and former Chair of the Kingston WritersFest Board.

John Burns, journalist, editor, publisher and current Editorial Director of Echo Storytelling Agency in Vancouver.

About the Award

British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction is one of Canada's largest literary awards for non-fiction. A vital part of Canadian culture, literary non-fiction provides a forum for writers to provoke thought and explore new ways of understanding. The BC Award celebrates the best work in this important genre.

The award originates in BC and is presented annually. The winning author will receive $40,000 while the remaining finalists will each receive $5,000.

British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction

BC Celebrates Canada's Best

Eligibility Guidelines

The award recognizes and honours fine Canadian writing in the field of non-fiction. The genre includes essays, memoirs, criticism, history, literary journalism, and biography, among other forms. Submissions should be fact-based and book-length, demonstrating a distinctive and persuasive command of style and technique in the telling of compelling stories, supported by research that provides the reader with a unique perspective. The finalists and winner will represent an important contribution to our national conversation.

1. Entries must be published between November 1, 2015 and October 31, 2016. If necessary, books may be submitted as bound galley proofs.
2. Books must be first print editions published in Canada in English and be widely available to Canadian readers in bookstores and libraries.
3. All entries must be authored by a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada at the time of publication.
4. Entries may be authored by one or two individuals. Multi-authored titles are not eligible.
5. Entries should demonstrate a high standard of craft and quality of thought, whatever their subject or category within the genre.
6. Self-published books are not eligible. These are understood to include books authored by a senior officer of the book's publishing firm, and/or whose publication was underwritten in part or whole by the author. Such books as textbooks, how-to books, and photographic books, are not eligible.
7. Posthumously published books are not eligible.
8. The jury may request submissions at its discretion.

About the Foundation

The British Columbia Achievement Foundation was established in 2003 to celebrate excellence and achievement. It is dedicated to recognizing outstanding community, creative, intellectual, and cultural contributions and to promoting a climate of possibility and encouragement. The Foundation is independent, and was established with an endowment of $8 million from the Province of British Columbia.

The BC National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction is one of five initiatives of the Foundation. The others are the BC Aboriginal Business Awards; the Carter Wosk BC Creative Achievement Awards for Applied Art and Design; the BC Community Achievement Awards and the BC Creative Achievement Awards for First Nations Art.

For further information, please contact:

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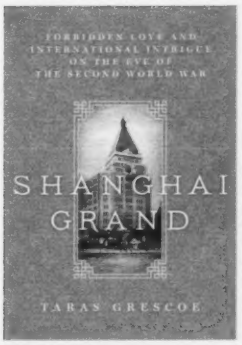

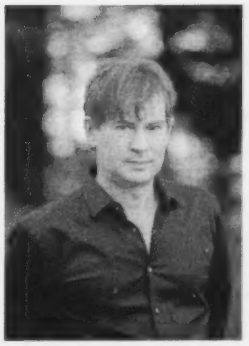

2017 FINALIST

Shanghai Grand: Forbidden Love and International Intrigue on the Eve of the Second World War
By Taras Grescoe
Harper Avenue / HarperCollins Publishers Ltd. | Hardcover | 480 Pages | 9781443425537

On the eve of the Second World War, the foreign-controlled port of Shanghai was the rendezvous for the twentieth century's most outlandish adventurers, all under the watchful eye of the fabulously wealthy Sir Victor Sassoon. Emily "Mickey" Hahn, the legendary *New Yorker* writer who would cover China for nearly fifty years, would play an integral part in opening up Asia to the west. But at the height of the depression, Mickey had just arrived in Shanghai, nursing a broken heart after a disappointing love affair. After checking in to Sassoon's glamorous Cathay Hotel, Mickey is absorbed into the social swirl of expats drawn to pre-war China, among them Ernest Hemingway, Harold Acton, and the colourful gangster Morris "Two-Gun" Cohen, who once lived in Saskatoon and Edmonton and later retired to Montreal. When Mickey meets Zau Sinmay, a Chinese poet from an illustrious family, she discovers the real Shanghai through his eyes: a city of rich colonials, triple agents, opium smokers, displaced Chinese peasants, and increasingly desperate white Russian and Jewish refugees. But danger lurks on the horizon, and Mickey barely makes it out alive as the brutal Japanese occupation destroys the seductive world of pre-war Shanghai and Mao Tse-tung's Communist Party rises to power in China.

Award-winning and bestselling author Taras Grescoe, with his trademark style and verve, brings this rich history to life in all its beautiful and intimate detail.

Taras Grescoe is the author of six books, including *Sacré Blues*, *The End of Elsewhere*, *The Devil's Picnic*, *Bottomfeeder*, and *Straphanger*. *Bottomfeeder* won the Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction, the Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-fiction, and the International Association of Culinary Professionals' Award for Literary Food Writing, and it was a finalist for the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing. *Straphanger* was longlisted for the British Columbia National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction, shortlisted for the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction, and won the Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-fiction. Grescoe lives in Montreal.

British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction
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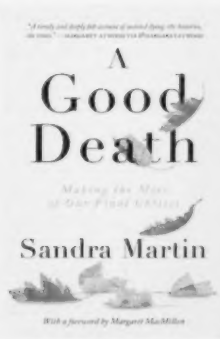

2017 FINALIST

A Good Death: Making the Most of Our Final Choices
By Sandra Martin
Patrick Crean Editions / HarperCollins Publishers Ltd. | Hardcover | 386 pages | 9781443435963

We can't avoid death, but the prospect has been a lot less terrifying since the Supreme Court of Canada legalized physician-assisted death. Competent adults suffering grievously from intolerable medical conditions will have the right to ask for a doctor's help in ending their lives. That much is clear.

The challenge now is to pass legislation that reflects this landmark decision and develop regulations that reconcile the Charter rights of both doctors and patients. If we get the balance right between compassion for the suffering and protection of the vulnerable, between individual choice and social responsibility, we can set an example for the world.

A Good Death is timely, engaging, and inspiring. In taking on our ultimate human right, award-winning journalist Sandra Martin charts the history of the right-to-die movement here and abroad through the personal stories of brave campaigners like Sue Rodriguez, Brittany Maynard, and Gloria Taylor. Martin weighs the evidence from permissive jurisdictions such as the Netherlands, Oregon, California, Switzerland, and Quebec, and she portrays her own intellectual and emotional journey through the tangled legal, medical, religious, and political documentation concerning terminal sedation, slippery slopes, and the sanctity of life.

Modern death has become a wrenching political dilemma, one that becomes more pressing as the population ages. *A Good Death* confronts our fears about dying, our struggle for meaning, and our dread of being trapped by voracious medical technology in a nightmare world that has abandoned caring in pursuit of curing, no matter the cost to — or suffering of — patients and their families.

A Good Death asks the tough question none of us can avoid: How do we want to die? The answer will change your life — and your death.

Sandra Martin, an award-winning journalist and broadcaster, writes the Long Goodbye column for *The Globe and Mail*. Her previous books include *Working the Dead Beat: 50 Lives That Changed Canada*, The *First Man in My Life: Daughters Write about Their Fathers*, and *Card Tricks: Bankers, Boomers and the Explosion of Plastic Credit.*

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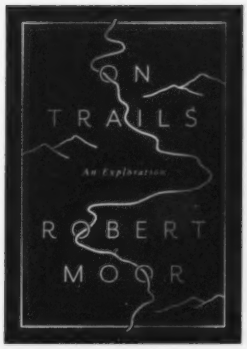

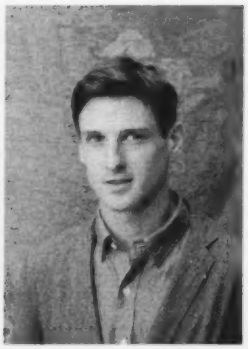

2017 FINALIST

On Trails: An Exploration
By Robert Moor
Simon & Schuster | Hardcover | 352 pages | 9781476739212

In 2009, while hiking the Appalachian Trail, Robert Moor began to wonder about the paths that lie beneath our feet: How do they form? Why do some improve over time while others devolve? What makes us follow or strike off on our own? Over the course of the next seven years, Moor traveled the globe, exploring trails of all kinds, from the minuscule to the massive. He learned the tricks of master trail-builders, hunted down long-lost Cherokee trails, and traced the origins of our road networks and the Internet. In each chapter, Moor interweaves his adventures with findings from science, history, philosophy, and nature writing — combining the nomadic joys of Peter Matthiessen with the eclectic wisdom of Lewis Hyde's *The Gift*.

Throughout, Moor reveals how this single topic — the oft-overlooked trail — sheds new light on a wealth of age-old questions: How does order emerge out of chaos? How did animals first crawl forth from the seas and spread across continents? How has humanity's relationship with nature and technology shaped the world around us? And, ultimately, how does each of us pick a path through life?

Moor has the essayist's gift for making new connections, the adventurer's love for paths untaken, and the philosopher's knack for asking big questions. With a breathtaking arc that spans from the dawn of animal life to the digital era, *On Trails* is a book that makes us see our world, our history, our species, and our ways of life anew.

Robert Moor has written for *Harper's*, *n+1*, *New York*, and *GQ*, among other publications. A recipient of the Middlebury Fellowship in Environmental Journalism, he has won multiple awards for his non-fiction writing. He lives in Halfmoon Bay, British Columbia. *On Trails* is his first book.

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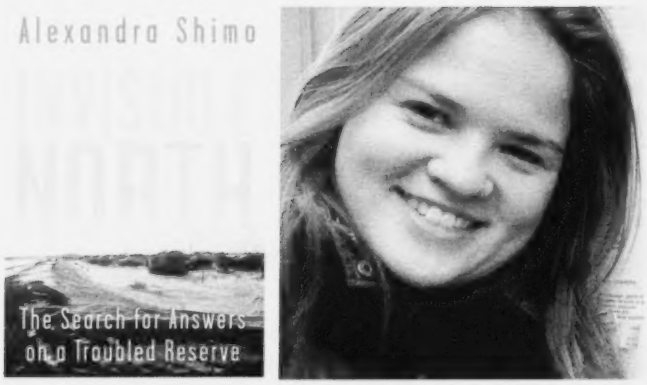

2017 FINALIST

Invisible North: The Search for Answers on a Troubled Reserve
By Alexandra Shimo

Dundurn Press | Paper | 176 pages | 9781459722927

When freelance journalist Alexandra Shimo arrives in Kashechewan, a fly-in, Northern Ontario reserve, to investigate rumours of a fabricated water crisis and document its deplorable living conditions, she finds herself drawn into the troubles of the reserve. Unable to cope with the desperate conditions, she begins to fall apart.

A moving tribute to the power of hope and resilience, *Invisible North* is an intimate portrait of a place that pushes everyone to their limits. Part memoir, part history of the Canadian reserves, Shimo offers an expansive exploration and unorthodox take on many of the First Nation issues that dominate the news today, including the suicide crises, murdered and missing indigenous women and girls, treaty rights, sovereignty, and deep poverty.

Alexandra Shimo is a broadcaster and former editor at *Maclean's*. An award-winning journalist, she is the co-author of *Up Ghost River*, winner of the CBC Bookie and Speaker's Book Awards for non-fiction. She lives in Toronto.

British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction

BC Celebrates Canada's Best

2018 Jury

Jan Walter
Returning juror and 2018 Jury Chair, Jan Walter has spent her life around books: selling, acquiring, editing, publishing, promoting. She began as a bookseller at Mel Hurtig's store in Edmonton, and later joined Hurtig Publishers as editor-in-chief. She then moved to Toronto where she held executive positions with several Canadian publishing companies, including Macmillan and McClelland & Stewart. In 1988, together with writer/editors Gary Ross and John Macfarlane, she launched Macfarlane, Walter & Ross, which became one of Canada's premier publishers of quality non-fiction, publishing over 60 award-winning and bestselling titles. Walter has made her home in Kingston, Ontario since 2004 and is a former Chair of the Kingston WritersFest Board.

Rick Antonson
Rick Antonson is the author of six books, including To Timbuktu for a Haircut and Route 66 Still Kicks. He entwines travel, history, and memoir when writing about extraordinary places and the people who call them home. An inveterate traveller, visiting places as varied as Iraq, Iran and North Korea, Antonson's forthcoming book is based in Papua New Guinea. He was President and CEO of Tourism Vancouver for over two decades, and is also a former book publisher. Capilano University awarded Antonson an Honorary Doctorate of Laws and the tourism industry conferred recognitions in Canada, Europe, the US, and Asia. Antonson is currently co-scriptwriting a musical play,
and delivers his "Cathedral Thinking" address around the world; he and his wife, Janice, live in Vancouver and Frankfurt.

Eliza Reid
Eliza Reid, the First Lady of Iceland, is co-founder of the acclaimed Iceland Writers Retreat, an annual event that combines small-group writing workshops with cultural tours to introduce visitors to Iceland's unique literary heritage. She was the editor of Icelandair's in-flight magazine from 2012-2016 and was a staff writer at Iceland Review from 2005-2008. In Canada, where she was born and raised, Reid has been published in The Globe and Mail, The Walrus, and The Ottawa Citizen. Until she became First Lady, Reid was a regular commentator on Icelandic current affairs for foreign media, and made appearances on BBC Radio Scotland, CBS Radio, CBC Television and Radio, France 24, and RTE (Ireland).

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BRITISH COLUMBIA ACHIEVEMENT FOUNDATION

Carol Off Wins the 2018 BC National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction

VANCOUVER – British Columbia Achievement Foundation Chair, Scott McIntyre, is pleased to announce that Carol Off has won the 2018 British Columbia National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction for *All We Leave Behind: A Reporter's Journey into the Lives of Others.*

Off was presented with the $40,000 prize at a ceremony that also celebrated finalists Ken Dryden for *Game Change: The Life and Death of Steve Montador and the Future of Hockey*; Doug Saunders for *Maximum Canada: Why 35 Million Canadians Are Not Enough;* and, Tanya Talaga for *Seven Fallen Feathers: Racism, Death, and Hard Truths in a Northern City.*

"Congratulations to Carol Off and all the 2018 finalists. Their work provides a compelling lens into issues and stories that have genuine impact on our everyday life," said McIntyre. "We are blessed with a remarkable pool of writing talent in Canada, demonstrated by this year's shortlisted authors."

Now in its 14th year, British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction is one of Canada's major national book prizes and the only one to originate in BC. The award is presented by the British Columbia Achievement Foundation, an independent foundation established by the Province in 2003 to celebrate excellence in the arts, humanities, enterprise, and community service.

The 2018 jury panel members were **Jan Walter**, Jury Chair, editor, publishing executive, bookseller and former Chair of the Kingston WritersFest Board; **Rick Antonson**, author, book publisher, lecturer and former CEO of Tourism Vancouver; and, **Eliza Reid**, co-founder of the Iceland Writers' Retreat, writer, editor and currently the First Lady of Iceland.

The jury cited:
All We Leave Behind is a timely memoir that offers both context to and a close-up of uncomfortable truths: the failures of the West's involvement in Afghanistan, the hurdles confronting refugees who seek safety in Canada, and the dilemma of a combat journalist expected to maintain professional distance from her sources.

Carol Off relied on Asad Aryubwal's willingness to reveal the crimes of warlords on whom NATO pinned its hopes for stability after the reign of the Taliban, but his on-camera testimony put him and his family at risk. After precarious years in exile, the Aryubwals hoped for refugee status in Canada; Off decided she had to help. Then began a harrowing seven-year battle with corrupt or hostile bureaucracies, abroad and at home. With bracing insight and a skillfully crafted narrative, this work forces a rethinking of our attitudes to those who ask us for sanctuary.

Background information about British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction is available at www.bcachievement.com/nonfiction. Detailed information about the awards and a list of past winners is posted on the Foundation's website at www.bcachievement.com. The event can be followed on Twitter @bcachievement and #bcnationalaward.

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British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction

BC Celebrates Canada's Best

Presentation Event

Award presentation:
February 1, 2018
Vancouver, BC

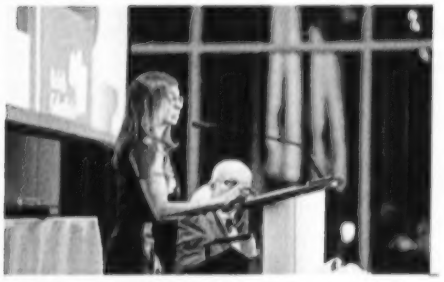
2018 Finalist Ken Dryden with Scott McIntyre

2018 Finalist Doug Saunders with Scott McIntyre

2018 Finalist Tanya Talaga with Scott McIntyre

2018 Recipient Carol Off with Scott McIntyre

Candis Callison's introduction of Seven Fallen Feathers



Shelina Babul's introduction of Game Change

Deborah Campbell's introduction of All We Leave Behind

Shachi Kurl's introduction of Maximum Canada

Scott McIntyre, Chair of the BC Achievement Foundation

Christopher Gaze, Board Director and MC

Jan Walter speaking on behalf of the Jury

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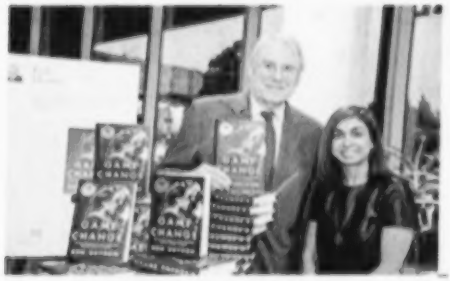

Ken Dryden and introducer Shelina Babul

Carol Off and introducer Deborah Campbell

Doug Saunders and introducer Shachi Kurl

Tanya Talaga and introducer Candis Callison

Jury members Eliza Reid, Rick Antonson, and Jan Walter

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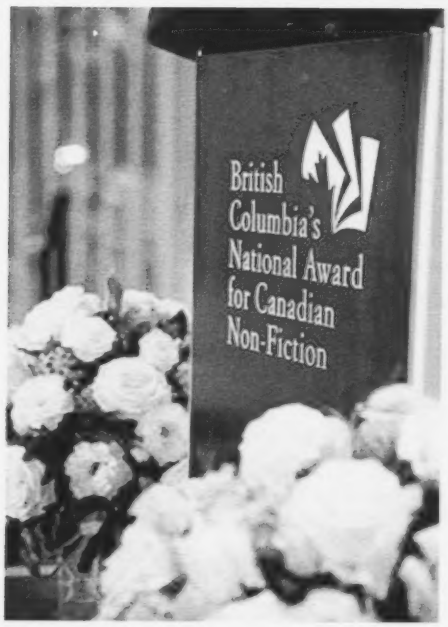

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